

2023 Section Annual Report: Part 1 for History of Sociology & Social Thought

Introduction

This annual report covers the period of Section activity from September 2022 to August 2023 and a fiscal year from January 2023 to December 2023.

Section Governance

Provide details of your Section's governance activity during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

Business Meeting

Our business meeting was held during the ASA's annual meeting in August 2023 in Philadelphia. The meeting was well-attended with approximately 35 members in attendance.

The first order of business was to acknowledge both our new and department office holders. The departing members of our leadership team include Paul Joosse, past chair, and Christian Daye, secretary-treasurer. Departing council members include Chad Goldberg and Anne Eisenberg. The term of one of our student representatives, Yui Fung Yip, has also concluded. We thank each of these colleagues for their important contributions to the successful conduct of the business of our section.

The election earlier in 2023 has resulted in the following new members joining the leadership team of the section. These are Laura Ford, our new chair-elect and Jean-Pierre Reed, our incoming secretary-treasurer. Also elected are two new council members, A. Javier Treviño and Michael Strand. Paul Joosse will fill the remainder of Laura Ford's council term. We also elected as one of our two student representatives, Margaret Walkover. We thank all of those who ran for election and look forward to the contributions of these new members.

The second item on the agenda was the recognition of those members selected to receive one of the three major section awards. This year, plaques were awarded to the following individuals:

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Lifetime Achievement Award: *Kevin Anderson*

Committee: Gary A. Fine (Chair); Besnik Pula; Andrea Cossu.

Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award: *Dylan Riley, Rebecca Jean Emigh and Patricia Ahmed*. For their article "The Social Foundations of Positivism: The Case of Late-Nineteenth-Century Italy," *Social Science History* (2021), 45, 813–84.

Honorable Mention: Besnik Pula, "Does Phenomenology (Still) Matter? Three Phenomenological Traditions and Sociological Theory," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, published online May 5, 2021

Committee: Kevin Anderson (Chair); Roslyn Bologh; Hans Bakker,

Graduate Student Paper Award: *Demar F. Lewis IV*, Yale University. For his paper: “To Agitate a Southern Audience: Revisiting Tuskegee Institute’s Lynching Politics in the Wake of the Emmett Till Anti-lynching Act.”

Honorable Mention: *Jorge Daniel Vásquez*, University of Massachusetts-Amherst. For his paper: “Du Bois’s Global Sociology and the Anti-racist struggle for democracy in Cuba, (1931-1941).”

Committee: Jean-Pierre Reed (Chair), Matteo Bortolini; Philip Lewin.

Council Meeting

The agenda for this meeting included the following items.

1. The end of ASA Connect and the return to the listserv. Update.
2. The Section Newsletter. We discussed the need for the newsletter now that ASA Connect has ended. It was felt that a committee of members would ideally assume the responsibility of the newsletter rather than having a single person (usually a graduate student) assigned the task.
3. The Committee on ASA Presidential Biographies. Several more biographies have been submitted and approved. We will need to find a replacement for both Stefan Bargheer, whose term as chair of this committee has ended, and Kerby Goff, whose membership on the committee has also drawn to a close. This year the work of the committee produced five additional biographies to join those previously written. The new biographies are of Frank Blackmar, John Lewis Gillen, Howard Odum, Robert Ezra Park, and Lester Ward.
4. Digitization of the History of Sociology journal. Update. We discussed the possibility of seeking donations from members to fund the digitization of this journal. Action will be necessary during 2024 to finalize this motion.
5. Departmental histories project. This project continues although slowly. There is concern that the project will be difficult to complete, particularly for the smaller departments. Also, concerns were raised about the likelihood of conflict created were one to attempt to write a thorough and honest history of certain departments. Even with these concerns in mind, the project continues with a history of the University of Pennsylvania’s sociology department being recommended by Jerry Jacobs.
6. Our nomination committee will need to identify section colleagues who would be ready, willing, and able to serve not only in leadership positions, including the council, but also as members of our various committees. The other committees, such as the program committee, membership committee, awards committee, and maybe the newsletter committee should we decide to adopt that change, need to be given a clear charge as to their responsibilities, functions, and mission.

Here is what is in our bylaws about our three standing committees:

a. **Nominations Committee.** At the annual meeting of the Section Council, the Chair shall appoint a nominations committee consisting of three (3) members of the Section membership and the Past-Chair who shall serve as chair of the Nominations Committee which shall be

responsible for making nominations to fill the positions of each Section Officer listed in Article II and of the at-large members of the Section Council. The Nominations Committee shall provide an opportunity for members of the Section to suggest persons for these positions.

b. Program Committee. There shall be a Program Committee of at least four members, chaired by the section Chair and with the Chair-elect as ex-officio member, the remaining members of which are appointed each year by the Section Council. All members of this committee shall be section members. This committee is charged with arranging and implementing the various events and activities of the Section as authorized by the Section Council, in particular the Section events and activities during the Annual Meeting of the ASA.

c. Membership Committee. There shall be a Membership Committee of at least three members appointed each year by the Section Council and of the Secretary-Treasurer who shall be an ex-officio member. The Membership Committee are charged with recruitment of new members and communication with standing members.

8. Mentoring program and the idea of a fund-raising drive to help fund student attendance at the annual meeting was discussed but no action taken.

9. The annual report is due to the ASA in November. All members of the leadership team are expected to contribute to this report. Jim Dowd, past-chair, and Jean-Pierre Reed, secretary-treasurer, will take the lead on preparing this report.

10. New Business/Other Issues. Several other issues, including the status of the New Voices Workshop, to which Gary Yip and Taylor Winfield have contributed. During this past year, the organizers (Gary Yip, Kerby Goff, and Taylor Winfield) prepared a workshop (part of the New Voices Initiative) on Philipp Altmann's upcoming book Sociology in Ecuador that provides a history of Ecuadorian sociology. Professor Stephen Turner and Dr. Álvaro Morcillo Laiz served as discussants for the session. The event was held on 3 Nov (Thu), from noon to 1:15 on Zoom. The council are in strong agreement that this initiative should continue and that renewed efforts be made to publicize the workshop.

Awards

Discussed above.

2023 Finances

Provide a narrative on how the 2023 budget matched with actual expenses and income from 2023. Please account for any substantive differences.

After the annual meetings last year (2022), we started this financial period with net assets of \$3,764 in our section account. We further received \$1,251, the ASA allocation (\$1,078) plus the dues of our section's members (\$173). This means that as of July 31, 2023, our balance was \$5,089.

From this, we reduce the balance by the amount for the award plaques (\$520) and the 2023 joint reception at the Philadelphia meetings (\$1,032), resulting in a balance of \$3,536 available to the incoming section leaders. To put this in perspective: Compared to the budget after last year's annual meetings, this marks a decrease of \$228.

Beginning balance, as of 31 Dec. 2022	\$5,089.00
Plaques for awards	\$520.17
Reception costs	\$1,032.08
Ending balance, as of 31 Dec. 2023	\$3,536.75

Estimated Expenses

Income category	Estimated Amount	Details
Section allocation - Base	\$515	
Section allocation – per member	\$406	
Premium dues	\$290	
Contributions	0	
Miscellaneous	0	
Total estimated income	\$1211.00	

Budget Summary

Estimated Remaining Balance at end of December 2023	\$3,536.75	<i>Accounting for all estimated costs for the remainder of the year, estimate the remaining balance.</i>
Total 2024 Estimated Income	\$1211.00	<i>Fill in from the Estimated Income table above</i>
Total 2024 Budgeted Expenditures	(\$1500.00)	<i>Estimated expenses for plaques and reception.</i>
Total	\$3247.75	<i>To calculate net amount, sum Lines 1 and 2, then subtract Line 3.</i>

The Previous Year

Describe Section activities during the period between September 2022 and August 2023.

The year 2022-2023 coincided with the advent of the ASA’s Connect page. Our section conducted basically most of its communications through this medium. We found it to be easy to use and conducive to interaction among section members. Because of the way in which the Connect platform facilitated communication among section members, there was little need for the traditional listserv and also for the newsletter. However, with the demise of the Connect platform, both the listserv and the newsletter will need to be resuscitated. Both of these changes are less than desirable as the listserv posts can only be made by members of the leadership team while the posts from the membership must be approved by the chair or past-chair prior to their being posted. Concerning the newsletter, it is a useful but labor-intensive undertaking that will require the dedication of a staff of section members to produce.

Describe the Section's diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. What steps were taken this year to achieve those goals?

Beginning in September, 2022, our section began an outreach to faculty of HBCUs who teach the undergraduate theory courses. In emails to these faculty colleagues, we described the history of our section and our strong interest in increasing both the racial and gender diversity of our membership. During the Fall months of 2022, we contacted the theory faculty of approximately a dozen HBCUs with this invitation. We will continue this outreach in early 2024.

A second aspect of this diversity initiative is our invitation to women and colleagues of color to consider running for election as members of our council or as the chair-elect. This effort has been successful as we now have two women who will vie for the position of chair-elect in the upcoming ASA elections.

Provide an overview of the section's programming at the annual meeting and include an explanation of how this programming meets the goals and values of the section (e.g. intellectual exchange, professional networking, mentoring, inclusion).

1. **HSST Paper Session:** Fri, August 18, 4:00 to 5:00pm, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Floor: 100 Level, 104B. "Racial and gender dynamics within the ASA: Conflict and change from 1948 to 2023."
President: Jeffrey Halley, University of Texas, San Antonio.
Individual Presentations:
 - a. Philipp Altmann. Central University of Ecuador. "Epistemic disobedience as sociological attitude - beyond the search for postcolonial classics."
 - b. Martha A. Martinez. Depaul University. "Epistemological Obstacles to Public Sociology: A Historical Approach."
 - c. Anthony V. Albanese. Pennsylvania State University. "Origins and Onion Skins: The Case of Luther and Jessie Bernard."
 - d. James J. Dowd. University of Georgia. "Sociology for whom, once again."
2. Section on History of Sociology and Social Thought **Business Meeting**
Fri, August 18, 5:00 to 5:30pm, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Floor: 100 Level, 104B
3. Joint **Reception:** After much planning and discussion, we entered into a joint reception along with six other ASA sections, including the section on Altruism, Morality and Social Solidarity; Section on Evolution, Biology, and Society; Section on Mathematical Sociology; Section on Methodology; Section on Rationality and Society; Section on Sociology of Emotions; and the Section on Social Psychology. This collaborative effort not only saved money but proved to be an excellent opportunity for dialogue with other ASA members, many of whom have little or no contact with members of our section.
Sat, August 19, 6:30 to 9:30pm, Offsite, Tir na nÓg Irish Pub

Provide an overview of the Section's programmatic activities outside of the Annual Meeting (e.g. webinars, networking events, mentoring initiatives, resources for dissemination) and include explanation of this programming meets the goals and values of the Section.

On May 17-19, 2023, a conference was held on “The Future of the History of Sociology“ 2nd International Conference of the Sociological History Section of the German Sociological Association (DGS). The conference was joined by several members of our HSST section on invitation from the organizers Nicole Holzhauser (Technische Universität Braunschweig) & Barbara Grüning (Università Milan-Bicocca). The conference took place via Webex and the links were sent to us the day before each conference day.